

## Pam Smart's Mother: Judge To Blame For Daughter Not Receiving a Fair Trial

By JOHN HART *Union Leader*  
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**EXETER** — The mother of the 23-year-old Derry woman serving life in prison for a conviction of accomplice to murder says her daughter didn't receive a fair trial and Superior Court Judge Douglas Gray is to blame.

"I'm deeply concerned that my daughter did not receive a fair trial," said Linda Wojas in meeting with a group of reporters in the courthouse waiting room.

Mrs. Wojas was at the courthouse to observe a sentencing hearing for her daughter's convictions on conspiracy to commit murder and witness tampering.

On top of her automatic life in prison punishment, Judge Gray yesterday gave Smart 7½ to 15 years on the conspiracy conviction and 3½ to 7 years on the witness-tampering conviction, to be served concurrently.

Mrs. Wojas said her daughter's trial six weeks ago was a "backdrop for tabloid television."

"Pam [Smart] was condemned by the media and the state well in advance of her trial," according to Mrs. Wojas.

"The sole person who could have stemmed the media circus was Judge Gray," according to Mrs. Wojas.

"Instead he [the judge] chose to perpetuate it by turning this very courthouse into a backdrop of tabloid television," said Mrs. Wojas.

Mrs. Wojas also was critical of the judge because he "continually denied our motions for a change of venue and the sequestration of the jury."

She said, "The final insult came when at the end

of the trial Judge Gray turned to the jurors and remarked 'I hope Clint Eastwood plays my part in the movie' [if any is to be made of the Smart case].

"If Pam's life meant so little to him [Judge Gray] I regret that he didn't remove himself from her case," said Mrs. Wojas.

"I sure hope we don't see the prejudice at the appellate level for Pam as we have seen here at the Superior Court," she added.

Mrs. Wojas said she is absolutely convinced that her daughter's convictions will be overturned in the appeal process.

"Unfortunately, an appeal comes with a very high price tag. That's pretty sad, but we won't let that deter us," said Mrs. Wojas.

Mrs. Wojas declined to comment on her daughter's father-in-law, William Smart, calling Pam a cold-blooded killer and wishing that she lives a long life in prison.

Then, Mrs. Wojas went on to say, "Both families should be grieving together and we're grieving apart. That's really sad."

Mrs. Wojas said, "Pam is now being taught it's OK to cry." Pam Smart cried in court yesterday.

"I think there is still a lot of life for Pam," said Mrs. Wojas, noting that her daughter is a "getting all tens [meaning she is a model prisoner]."

"She [Pam Smart] is doing the best she can in an adverse situation ... answering letters from thousands of supporters and teaching [in the prison]," said Mrs. Wojas, adding the letters from supporters are comforting to her daughter.

"Pam reads all the letters. They help her to stay strong and remain calm," said Mrs. Wojas.